

THE
S I E G E
OF
C H E S T E R.

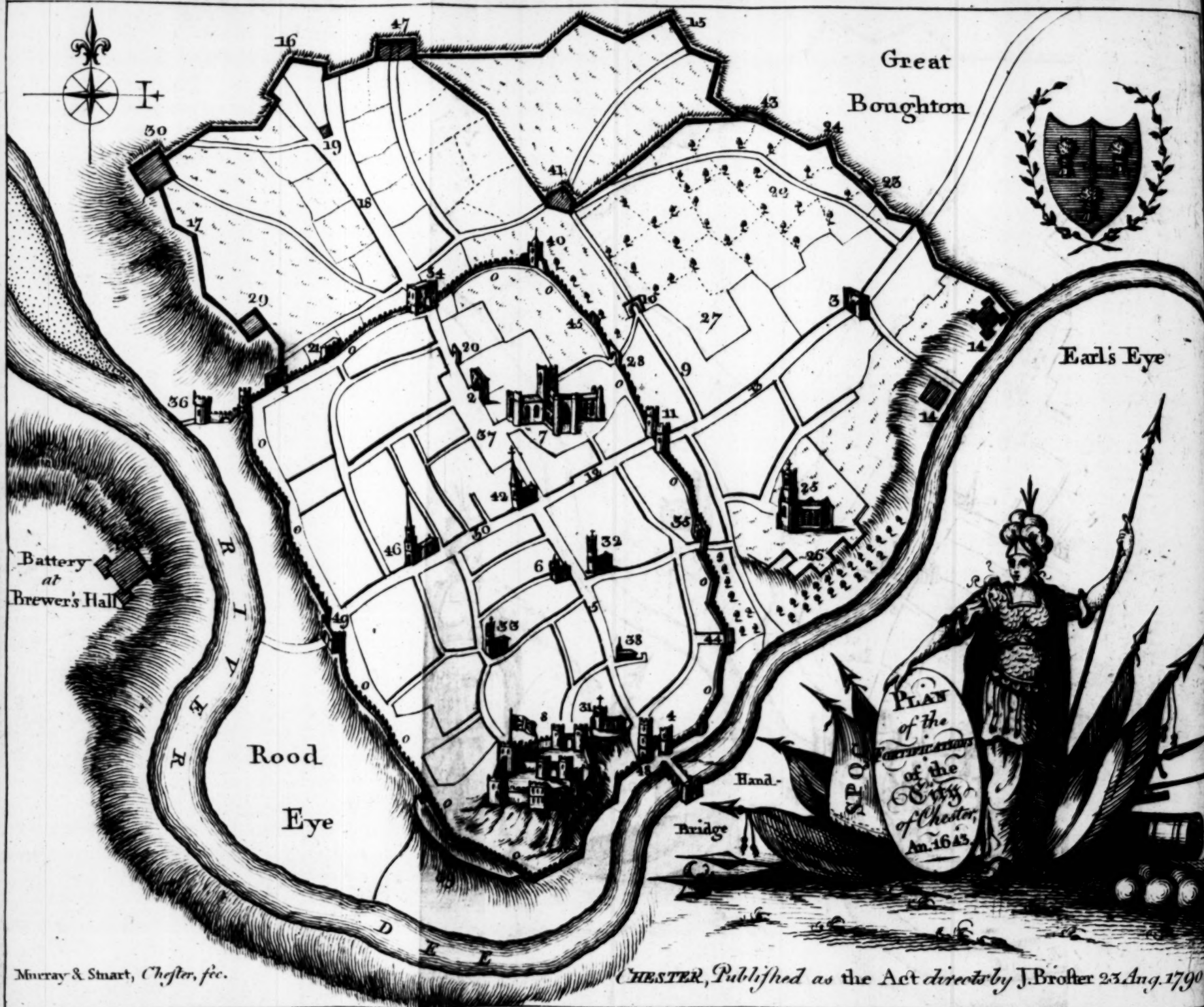


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AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
SIEGE OF CHESTER,
DURING
THE CIVIL WARS
BETWEEN
KING CHARLES I.
AND
HIS PARLIAMENT.

Chester,
PRINTED BY P. BROSTER,
MDCCXCIII.





Murray & Stuart, Chester, fec.

CHESTER, Published as the Act directed by J. Brooker 23 Aug. 1790

REFERENCES

TO THE

PLAN OF THE FORTIFICATIONS, &c.



- 1 Alcove, or *Pemberton's Parlour*.
- 2 Abbey-gate.
- 3 Bars-gate.
- 4 Bridge-gate.
- 5 Bridge-street.
- 6 St. Bridget's church.
- 7 Cathedral.
- 8 Castle.
- 9 Cow-lane.
- 10 Cow-lane-gate, or Turnpike.
- 11 Eastgate.
- 12 Eastgate-street.
- 13 Foregate-street.
- 14 Flankers on the River.
- 15 Flankers at Flookersbrook.
- 16 Flankers at Further Northgate-street.
- 17 Flankers facing Stone-bridge.
- 18 Further Northgate-street.
- 19 Further Northgate-street turnpike.
- 20 Further Abbey-gate.
- 21 Gun Mount.
- 22 Horn-lane.
- 23 Horn-lane

REFERENCES, &c.

- 23 Horn-lane mount.
- 24 Horn-lane flanker.
- 25 St. John's church.
- 26 St. John's church-yard battery.
- 27 Justing Croft; *a place for juffs, tilts, and tournaments.*
- 28 Kaleyad-gate.
- 29 *Morgan's* mount.
- 30 Mount in the lane leading to Stone-bridge, formerly the road to the Marsh.
- 31 St. Mary's church.
- 32 St. Michael's church.
- 33 St. Martin's church.
- 34 Northgate.
- 35 Newgate.
- 36 New Tower.
- 37 Northgate-street.
- 38 St. Olave's church.
- 39 Out-works on the hill at the Little Rood-eye.
- 40 Phœnix Tower.
- 41 Phœnix Tower mount.
- 42 St. Peter's church.
- 43 *Reed's* mount.
- 44 Railed square platform on the Walls.
- 45 *Sadler's* Tower.
- 46 Trinity church.
- 47 *Dr. Walley's* mount.
- 48 Water Tower.
- 49 Watergate.
- 50 Watergate-street.
- Walls.

THE
SIEGE
OF
CHESTER.

~~~~~

DURING the civil war between the King and Parliament, the city of *Chester* was firm to the King, by the virtue of the inhabitants, and interest of the Bishop; but more by the reputation and dexterity of his son, Mr. *Orlando Bridgman*,\* a lawyer of great estimation; who, not only informed them of their duty, and encouraged them in it, but upon his credit and estate (both which were very considerable) supplied them

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with

\* Afterwards Sir *Orlando Bridgman*, made Lord-keeper of the Seals anno 1667.



with whatever was necessary for their defence.

The war having now commenced, it was  
1643 thought necessary to fortify this city ;  
and the corporation called an assembly  
for that purpose, on Friday the third of February, 1643. An exact copy of the original record is given on the opposite page, wherein is a list of the corporation of that time. Those marked \* were present at this assembly.

The outworks and intrenchments were carried on with such vigour, that in the beginning of the next Summer, the *mud walls, mounts, bastions, &c.* were all completed. The outworks commenced at the *Alcove* † on the city walls, which lies between the Water-tower and the Northgate ; and proceeded towards the stone bridge leading to *Blacon*, then inclining to the north-east, took in the utmost limits  
in

† Now known by the name of *Pemberton's Parlour*.



ATT an assemble holden in the Common-hall of Pleafe, upon Friday  
the third day of February.—William Ince, Maior, civit. Cestr. Anno  
Domini 1643.—Anno Rex Caroli Decimo octavo.

|                          |                     |                       |          |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| *William Ince, maior     | *William Crompton]  | the- *Edw. Hallwood]  | leave-   |
| James Earl of Derby      | *John Johnson       | riffs Wm. Bennett     | ]lookers |
| John Earl of Rivers      | *Hugh Whitehead     | *Peter Goofe          |          |
| Sir Thomas Smith, knt.   | *Thomas Humphreys   | *William Gregory      |          |
| Robert Brerewood, re-    | *John Aldersey      | *Edmund Williams      |          |
| corder of Chester        | *Robert Ince        | Alexand Byrd          |          |
| William Gamull, ald.     | *Richard Broffer    | William Hincks        |          |
| *Nicholas Ince, ald.     | *William Jones      | Peter Ince            |          |
| Richard Dutton, ald.     | *William Parnell    | *Christopher Berneard |          |
| *Christopher Bleafe, ald | *Robert Wright      | John Wildinge         |          |
| *Charles Mallory, ald.   | *Richard Byrd       | *Peter Leigh          |          |
| *Thomas Byrd, ald.       | *Edward Evans       | William Higgnett      |          |
| *William Sparke, ald.    | Calvin Bruen        | John Whitbye          |          |
| *Randle Holme, ald.      | *Edward Bradshaw    | *John Leckonby        |          |
| Francis Gamull, ald.     | *Owen Hughes        | *William Whittle      |          |
| William Edwards, ald.    | Thomas Weston       | Randle Davies         |          |
| *Thomas Throppe, ald.    | *William Wilcocke   | *Richard Sproffon     |          |
| Robert Sproffon, ald.    | William Drinkwater  | Lawrence Massey       |          |
| Robert Harvie, ald.      | *Richard Bradshaw   | *Randle Burroughs     |          |
| *Thomas Aldersey, ald.   | *John Whittle       | John Brookes          |          |
| *Thomas Cooper, ald.     | *Edward Hulton      | *Thomas Wright        |          |
| Robert Flecher, ald.     | *Thomas Mottershead | *Edward Reynolds      |          |
| *Robert Leycester, ald.  | *Hugh Leigh         | Humphrie Phillips     |          |
| *Randle Holme, jun, ald  |                     | Robert Anyon          |          |

It is ordered by general consent that the sume George Bennett  
of five hundred pounds shall be forthwith assesseed Lawrence Flecher  
and levied upon all the inhabitants of this cittie \*Hugh Mouson  
towards the making of fortifications for the defence \*John Sproffon  
thereof: And for all other publique charges requi- \*Richard Lea  
site for the good of this cittie and in default of pay- Lawrence Yonge  
ment the same to be levied by distresse, &c. Randle Richardson  
Henry Yonge

ASSESSORS.  
Mr. Ald. Sparkes  
Mr. Ald. Holme  
Mr. Richard Broffer  
Mr. Hugh Leigh  
Mr. John Leckonby  
Mr. William Whittle.

COLLECTORS.  
Mr. William Jones  
Mr. Owen Hughes  
Mr. Edward Hulton  
Mr. Thomas Mottershead  
Richard Dickinso  
\*Milo Pemberton  
Humphrie Lloyd  
Gerard Jones  
\*William Ball  
\*Daniel Greatbatch  
\*James Ravenkroft.







in the Further Northgate-street; then turning eastward near *Flookers-brook*, encompassed Horn-lane, and all that part of the town to *Boughton*; from whence the works were carried down to the edge of *St. John's Dee*.

Sept. 28. The King came to Chester from Shrewsbury, and received strong assurances from the citizens of their loyalty and support.

His Majesty departed thence much sooner than he at first intended, owing to the arrival of a messenger from Prince *Rupert*, who informed him of the important advantage before *Worcester*, and presented him with the colours which had been taken from the enemy.

Sir *William Brereton*, a gentleman of competent fortune in this county, and knight for the shire in Parliament (a man most notorious for an aversion the government of the church) came to *Nantwich* with a troop of horse, and a regiment of dragoons, and fortified that place



place as the King's party did *Chester*; with the intention of protecting those who were of his party, and under that shelter to encourage them to appear.

July 18. Sir *William Brereton* came with his forces before this city, and, on the 20th, made a violent attack on the works, which were so resolutely defended, that he was repulsed, and forced to retire. After that Sir *William* joined Sir *Thomas Middleton*, and besieged the castle of *Flint*; Colonel *Mestyn*, governor for the King, held out till all provisions even to horses failed, he then surrendered upon honourable terms.

During the time of this siege, the garrison of *Chester* were busily employed in pulling down the *Spittal-Boughton* chapel, all the houses thereabouts, and many other houses and barns in that neighbourhood, to prevent  
the



the enemy from harbouring in them, to the great annoyance of the City.

Nov. 11. Sir *William Brereton* came with his forces to *Hawarden Castle*, five miles distant from *Chester*. Mr. *Thomas Ravenscroft*, of *Bretton*, and Mr. *John Aldersey*, being then in possession of that garrison, received Sir *William*, and his party, with every demonstration of joy. Sir *William* now being possessed of this strong fortress, and likewise of the town of *Hawarden*, prevented the garrison of *Chester* from receiving coals, corn, and other provisions, from that neighbourhood, which proved a great inconvenience.

In the evening of the same day Mr. *Ravenscroft*, pretending to be of the King's party, had the audacity to enter the city, and apply to the governor for a barrel of gunpowder, and a quantity of match, which, as he was unsuspected, were delivered to him by the store-keeper



keeper of the garrison.\* Sir *William Brereton*, on the Thursday following, sent an authoritative summons, from the castle of *Hawarden*, to Sir *Abraham Shipman*, then governor of *Chester*, expressly requiring him to surrender that city, adding some severe threats in case of refusal.

The governor sent him in answer, "That he was not to be intimidated by words, and Sir *William* must win it and wear it." The governor then thought proper to order *Handbridge* suburbs and *Overleigh-hall* to be burnt down, to prevent the enemy from sheltering themselves there if they should come to attack the city; and the next day he likewise ordered *Bache-hall* and *Flookersbrook-hall* to be burnt down, for fear of affording a lodgment for the enemy from another quarter.

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\* This action of Mr. *Ravencroft's* made him highly esteemed by his party



The situation of the families residing in the suburbs was truly deplorable ; forced to make a hasty retreat from their habitations, to seek shelter in the houses of the hospitable and humane, who dwelt within the walls. Thus they were separated from the dearest ties of kindred, and their property destroyed, without the least prospect of redress ; but these are few, when compared to the many dreadful consequences attendant on civil discord.

The people within the walls were in nearly as distressed a situation, being in continual apprehension of an attack from Sir *William*, but were agreeably relieved by receiving information of the castle of *Hawarden* being besieged by the King's party, who had landed at *Mosfyn*, in their return from *Ireland*, on an expedition to quell the disturbances in that kingdom.

On the arrival of the King's troops before

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the castle of *Hawarden*, Colonel *Marrow* sent them a verbal summons by a trumpeter, to which they in the garrison sent in return a long paper, in the puritanical stile of those times, concluding thus:—"We fear the loss of our  
 " religion more than the loss of our dearest  
 " blood, and being resolved to make it good,  
 " we put our lives into the hands of that God  
 " who can, and we hope will, secure them  
 " more than our walls or weapons."\*

Colonel

\* *Butler*, in his *Hudibras*, takes notice of them making religion their plea for war, in the following lines:

. . . . For he was of that stubborn crew  
 Of errant saints, whom all men grant  
 To be the true church militant;  
 Such as do build their faith upon  
 The holy text of pike and gun;  
 Decide all controversies by  
 Infallible artillery;  
 And prove their doctrine orthodox  
 By apostolic blows and knocks;

Call



Colonel *Marrow* immediately sent the following reply :

“ *Gentlemen,*

“ It is not to hear you preach that I am  
 “ sent hither, but it is, in his Majesty’s name,  
 “ to demand the castle for his Majesty’s use,  
 “ as your allegiance binds you to be true to  
 “ him ; and not to inveigle those innocent  
 “ souls that are within with you, I desire your  
 “ resolution whether you will deliver the  
 “ castle or not.”

*Nov. 21.* A rejoinder was sent from the castle, in much the same style as the former answer, intimating, “ That they were satisfied  
 “ of Colonel *Marrow*’s dislike to preaching,  
 “ that God would require blood from those

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“ who

Call fire and sword, and desolation,  
 A godly, thorough reformation,  
 Which always must be carried on,  
 And still be doing, never done.—



“ who shed it, that they relied upon the Lord  
“ of Hosts,” &c.

Nov. 22. Sir *Michael Ernley* and Major-general *Gibson* arrived with some additional forces from *Ireland*, and sent another summons in form; but received a similar answer to the former.\*

The

\* A letter was sent, with this summons, from Captain *Sandford*, who came with Sir *Michael* from *Ireland*, which, for its singularity, is worthy of insertion:

“ *Gentlemen,*

“ I presume you very well know, or have heard,  
“ of my condition and disposition, and that I neither  
“ give nor take quarter. I am now with my fire-  
“ locks, who never yet neglected opportunities to  
“ correct rebels, ready to use you as I have done  
“ the Irish, but loth I am to spill my countrymen’s  
“ blood. Wherefore by these I advise you to your  
“ fealty and obedience towards his Majesty, and to  
“ shew yourselves subjects by delivering the castle  
“ into my hands for his Majesty’s use; in so doing  
“ you shall be received into mercy, &c. Other-  
“ wise, if you put me to the least trouble, or loss

“ of



The garrison not surrendering, it was thought necessary to apply to *Chester* for a reinforcement; the governor immediately called a council for that purpose, who, after some debate, came to the following resolution :

“ At a council holden at the council-chamber, within his Majesty’s castle, at

“ *Chester,*

“ of blood, to force you, expect no quarter for  
 “ man, woman, or child. I hear you have some  
 “ of our late Irish army in your company, they very  
 “ well know me, and that my firelocks used not to  
 “ parly. Be not unadvised, but think of your  
 “ liberty, for, I vow, all hopes of relief are taken  
 “ from you, and our intents are not to starve you, but  
 “ to batter and storm you, and then hang you all,  
 “ and follow the rest of that rebel crew. I am no  
 “ bread and cheese rogue, but was ever a loyalist,  
 “ and will be while I can write or name

“ THO. SANDEFORD,

“ Cap. of Firelocks.

“ I expect your speedy answer, this Tuesday  
 “ night, at *Broadlane-hall*, where I now am your  
 “ near neighbour.

“ *To the Officer commanding in chief*

“ *at Harwarden-castle, and his*

“ *conforts there.*”



“ *Chester*, this first day of December, 1643.  
 “ We, whose names are hereunto subscribed,  
 “ having duly weighed and considered the ap-  
 “ plication and request of Sir *Michael Ernley*,  
 “ knight, and Major-general *Richard Gibson*,  
 “ for aid and assistance, whereby to enable  
 “ them to reduce the rebel garrison at *Ha-*  
 “ *warden*; it is hereby ordered, that on the  
 “ morrow, by break of day, 300 of the citi-  
 “ zens and train-bands, with their proper  
 “ officers, together with the companies of  
 “ Captains *Thropp* and *Morgell*, do march to  
 “ the assistance of the King’s forces now at  
 “ *Hawarden*, and that this detachment shall  
 “ be commanded by Lieutenant-colonel *John*  
 “ *Robinson*.

(Signed) “ *Abraham Sharman*, *Rob.*

“ *Cholmondeley*, *Wm. Manwaring*,\* *Rob.*

“ *Brerewood*,

\* This worthy knight lost his life during the siege  
of



"Brerewood, Tho. Cooper, Francis Gamull,  
"R. Grosvenor, Tho. Thropp, Cha. Walley."

*Dec. 2.* Accordingly this reinforcement came to *Hawarden*, and the next day a brisk attack being made upon the castle, the besieged, the day following, hung out a white flag.

*Dec. 4.* They capitulated, and early the next morning the castle was surrendered to Sir

*Michael*

of *Chester*, but we have not been able to learn the particular circumstances of his death. Close to the north part of the Communion rails, in the choir of *Chester Cathedral*, is a very handsome marble monument erected to his memory by his lady. The following lines are part of the inscription:—

"To the perpetual memory of the eminently loyal Sir  
"William *Manwaring*, eldest son of Sir *Edmund*  
"Manwaring, Chancellor of the county palatine of  
"Chester; of the antient family of the *Manwarings*,  
"of *Power*, in the said county.—He died in the  
"service of his prince and country, and in defence  
"of *Chester*, wherein he merited singular honour,  
"for his fidelity, courage, and conduct.—He died  
"honourably, but immaturally, in the 29th year of  
"his age, October 9th, 1644."



*Michael Ernley*, on the following conditions: That they were to march out with half arms, two pair of colours, one flying, the other furled, and to be safely convoyed either to *Wem* or *Nantwich*. Thus was this fortress, which it was expected would have been a most troublesome neighbour to this city, subdued in the very short space of three days.\* The party that went to their assistance returned to *Chester* without the loss of a single man.

A further reinforcement of some regiments arriving from *Ireland*, they marched to *Beeston-castle*,† a great insulated rock, composed of sand-stone, very lofty and precipitous at one end, and sloped down into the flat country  
at

\* *Harwarden* being situated upon so great an eminence, and at so short a distance from the city, the enemy had a full view of all those works which were opposite to them; this made the above fortress a great acquisition to either party.

† *Pernant*.



at the other. The access, about the mid-way of the slope, was defended by a great gateway, and a strong wall, fortified with round towers, which was from one edge of the precipice to the other, across the slope; within this cincture is a large area, perhaps four or five acres in extent. Near the top is the castle, defended, on this side, by an amazing ditch, cut out of the live rock; on the other, by the abrupt precipice that hangs over the vale of *Cheshire*.

*Dec. 13.* A little before day-break that famous partizan Captain *Sandford* scaled the steep sides of this rock, and, with only eight men, took it by surprize.

This fortress was deemed impregnable, and had it not been for the cowardice of the Parliament governor, Captain *Steel*, would have sustained a very tedious siege; some of his men proving treacherous, he was dismayed,

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and



and had not courage to repulse this daring veteran, but meanly sat down, entertained *Sandford*, and regaled his soldiers with strong beer; this exasperated the Parliament forces so much, that when he arrived at *Nantwich*, where he and his men had liberty to march with their arms and colours, it was with great difficulty the soldiers could be withheld from tearing him to pieces. He was immediately tried, and soon after executed, for cowardice.

The loss of this fortress was felt very severely by the neighbouring gentry and farmers on the Parliament side, who had deposited within its walls all their moveable effects of consequence, which, with ammunition and provisions for a long period, now became the reward of the conquerors.

There is a tradition, in the neighbourhood, that the chief of the valuables were, on the approach of the enemy, flung into the deep draw-wells



draw-wells on the high and lower wards ; but this seems improbable when the sudden capture of the garrison is considered.

Sir *John Byron*\* joined them, to whom was given the command of this army. They then engaged Sir *William Brereton* and Colonel *Ashton*, at *Middlewich*, and cut off near two hundred of their men, which occasioned them to resign *Northwich* ; likewise *Crew-house*, after a stout resistance, surrendered. *Doddington-hall* and *Acton church* were taken without much opposition. There was now not one garrison in this neighbourhood, that held out for the Parliament, except *Nantwich* ; which Lord *Byron* seemed determined to reduce by a very sudden and violent attack.†

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After

\* Afterwards created Lord *Byron*.

† For an account of which battle the reader is referred to the conclusion of this work



After the defeat, at the battle of *Nantwich*, Lord *Byron*, with all the horse and the remainder of the foot, made good their retreat to the garrison of *Chester*. 1644

*Feb. 13.* A detachment sallied out, from the garrison, to attack a party of the Parliament forces, who had made a lodgment at *Chrifleton*; the battle began nearly *Great Boughton*, but, after a bloody engagement, the Parliamentarians were forced to retire. In this skirmish there were slain near one hundred and forty officers and soldiers of the King's party, most of them *Chester* men. On the Wednesday following, *Great Boughton* was burnt down to prevent the enemy from harbouring there.

Prince *Maurice*, arriving in this city, thought proper to issue out a precept to the commissioners here to tender the following protestation or test to the inhabitants :

“ To



“ To the Mayor of the city of *Chester*, Sir  
“ *Francis Gamull*, Sir *William Manwar-*  
“ *ing*, Lieutenant-colonel *Robinson*, Ald.  
“ *Tho. Cowper*, Lieutenant-colonel *Grof-*  
“ *venor*, Colonel *Mostyn*, Captain *Thomas*  
“ *Thropp*, Captain *Morgell*, or to any two  
“ of them.

“ These are to will, authorize, and require  
“ you, or any two of you, to administer the  
“ protestation, hereunto annexed, lately made  
“ for the security of this city, to all the nobi-  
“ lity, gentry, divines, citizens, and all other  
“ inhabitants of this city; and to all and  
“ every the officers, soldiers, and others, that  
“ shall come into, or have any commerce  
“ within, the said city: And in case any per-  
“ son or persons refuse, deny, and will not  
“ take the same, you are hereby required to  
“ give in a list of the names of all and every  
“ person so refusing, unto me. Herein you  
“ are



“ are not to fail. Given, at *Chester*, under  
“ my hand and seal at arms, this 4th day of  
“ *March*, 1644.

“ MAURICE.”

### THE PROTESTATION.

“ I *A. B.* do vow and protest, in the pre-  
“ sence of Almighty God, that I believe in  
“ my heart, that the Earl of *Essex*, Sir *Wm.*  
“ *Brereton*, and Sir *Thomas Middleton*, and  
“ all their party and adherents, are in actual  
“ rebellion against the King ; and that I will,  
“ with myself, life, and fortune, and to the  
“ utmost of my power, maintain and defend  
“ his Majesty’s cause against the said rebels,  
“ and all others who are now in arms, without  
“ his Majesty’s express consent and command ;  
“ and that I will not give, nor, by any privity  
“ and consent, suffer to be given, any aid,  
“ assistance, or intelligence to the aforesaid  
“ rebels, or any of their parties, to the pre-  
“ judice



“ judice of the safety of this city of *Chester*,  
“ to the betraying of it, or any forces, castles,  
“ garrisons, or forts, under his Majesty’s  
“ expresse command and government, or any  
“ of his dominions, into the said rebels’ hands  
“ or power. And I do likewise, from my  
“ soul, abhor the taking of the damnable and  
“ late-invented covenant, commonly called  
“ the National Covenant, impressed by the  
“ rebels upon many of his Majesty’s subjects.  
“ And, to all I have protested, I call God to  
“ witness, believing that I cannot be absolved  
“ by any power, mental reservation, or equi-  
“ vocation, from this my vow and protesta-  
“ tion. So help me God, and by the con-  
“ tents of this book.”

*June 19.* Six companies of foot, and three  
troops of horse, marched out of the city to  
reconnoitre the enemy in the neighbouring  
quarters; and meeting Captain *Glegg*, took  
him



him and his whole troop prisoners, and brought them to *Chester*.

*August 18.* Sir *William Brereton* and Colonel *Middleton* appeared with their army before this city; Colonel *Marrow*, governor of *Chester*, issued out of the garrison; an engagement, when they came to *Crawton-house*, where Sir *William* was stationed, took place, and this brave officer received a wound in the fight of which he died soon after. Many of his men were killed and taken prisoners. Prince *Rupert* arrived in *Chester*, and the next morning drew forth two of his best regiments of horse, and a party of foot, and engaged Sir *William*, but was forced to retire with great loss.

In these two last skirmishes the enemy had upwards of four hundred men killed and taken prisoners.

*August 21.* Sir *William Brereton* sending  
out



out a party from *Northwich*, they advanced as far as *Tarvin*, and there met with a party of the King's forces; but the alarm being given to *Chester*, they sallied out of the garrison, and routed the Parliamentarians, who fled over *Delamere* forest with great precipitation.

Sept. 8. Sir *William* sent Colonel *Jones* with a party, who fell upon 2000 horse, of Prince *Rupert's*, near *Malpas*, and took 140 horse, and many officers and soldiers; Col. *Baines*, Col. *Conyers*, three Majors, and 100 common soldiers; he also routed the whole brigade, and forced them to fly back to *Chester*. Sir *Marmaduke Langdale* was routed in this fight.

The Council of War, at *Nantwich*, having received intelligence, from their scouts, that the garrison of *Beeffon-castle* was in want of fuel, and the necessaries of life, were de-

E

etermined



terminated to lay strong siege to it ; and wanting match\* they destroyed one *Owens's* barn, situated at the rise of the hill, for that purpose. Their efforts were this time ineffectual.

Colonel *Jones*, who commanded the foot, Adjutant-general *Lowthian*, who commanded the horse, at this siege, under Sir *William Brereton*, about eight o'clock in the evening of *September 19*, drew off a party of 1300 horse and foot, and advanced, by a still march, to the garrison of *Chester*.

They arrived the next morning before day-break, then privately dividing their forces into four squadrons, stormed the outworks, and got possession, in some parts, even before the guards were aware of them.

They now, with a trifling loss, made themselves masters not only of *Boughton*, but likewise

\* At that time the method of firing guns with flint was not discovered.



wife of *Foregate-street*, *St. John's church*, *St. John's-street*, *Love-lane*, *Barker's-lane*, and all the eastward suburbs in the *Foregate-street*. They also got possession of the Mayor's house, and the sword and mace, which were afterwards sent up to the Parliament as a trophy of this victory.

The garrison suddenly found themselves in a very confined situation, having nothing but the city walls for their defence; and what still added more to the terror and consternation of the inhabitants within, the enemy, being encouraged by their late success, in the course of that day made a brisk and vigorous attack on the city, but without doing any material injury to either party.

Each inhabitant was now forced to take up arms in defence of himself and his family. Horror and dismay were depicted on every



countenance, being now in a continual dread of famine or the sword.

Sept. 21. The *Lancashire* rebels crossed the *Mersey* into *Wirrall*, took a great piece of ordnance, and sixty prisoners, belonging to *Chester*.

October 20. Major *Croxton* and Captain *Lane*, with their companies and a troop of horse, went to *Farn*, where Capt. *Egerton* and a party were quartered, slew a few men, and took about fifty prisoners.

Dec. 7. A party of soldiers, lodged by Sir *William Brereton* at *Owens's* house, at *Beefton*, were attacked by forty of the garrison, who, under shelter of the night, sallied out, set the house on fire, destroyed them all except two old men, whom they took prisoners to the castle.

Jan. 9. A detachment from *Chester* came



to *Tattenhall*, and took many of Col. *Leigh's* horses, arms, and men.

Jan. 11. Colonel *Brook's* troops, 1645  
who were quartered at *Barrow*, were, by the same men, surprized, and many taken with their horses and arms.

Sunday, Jan. 26. The *Lancashire* and *Cheshire* Parliament forces marched towards *Chester*, thinking to join their party quartered there, and storm the city; but, fortunately for the citizens, they had been informed of their intention by a deserter from the enemy, and, when they arrived, were ready to receive them: The enemy perceiving, by the light of the matches, that the walls were well garrisoned, made a hasty retreat.

Jan. 28. Two thousand horse and foot marched out of *Wirral*, crossed a ford into *Wales*, passed by *Hawarden* castle, and came to *Holt*; the soldiers retired into the castle,  
and



and the enemy opening the bridge that led into *Farn*, made themselves a free passage into *Cheshire*.

The same week they entered *Wrexham*, in which they converted the church (which structure for its elegance stands unrivalled in this part of the country) into a stable for their horses.

Being informed that *Ruthin* was garrisoned with a number of the King's forces, they directed their march thither; but the garrison, being apprized of their intentions, immediately guarded the castle, and sent a detachment to *Denbigh*, for fear of them surprizing that fortress. They took possession of the town, and, of course, plundered the inhabitants, but did not remain long here, returning to *Wrexham*.

They next followed Prince *Maurice*, who had marched with his army towards *Chirk* castle,



castle, but fearful of him entering *Cheshire* and raising the siege of *Beefton*, they gave up their pursuit.

*Feb. 20.* The Prince, wishing to enter *Cheshire*, came to *Chester*; the Parliament army opposed him; he then retreated to *Holt*, made a bridge of boats over the river, under the walls of the castle, and, with about 500 men, came over into *Cheshire*, but was soon repulsed by the enemy's superior force. He several times afterwards attempted it, but without success.

*March 17.* Prince *Maurice* and Prince *Rupert* came, with great force, and relieved the garrison at *Beefton*, which had been for some time again besieged by the enemy. The following day the soldiers plundered the parish of *Bunbury* exceedingly, and set *Beefton-hall* on fire.

About this time, the enemy, by degrees,  
surrounded



surrounded *Chester*, placing garrisons at *Hoole*, *Rowton*, *Huntingdon*, *Eccleston*, *Iron-bridge*, *Upton*, &c. and also about *Beeston* castle, where they began to raise a large mount, encompassed by a deep ditch, and ramparts thereon, which were almost finished, when there was a report that the King, with his army, were marching into this county, upon which the enemy fled to *Nantwich*.

But his Majesty advanced no further than *Drayton*, which place he left *May 24*, and directed his march towards *Uttoxeter*.

During the time the enemy remained in *Nantwich*, the garrison of *Beeston* sallied forth to *Ridley-hall*, in that neighbourhood, garrisoned by about sixteen soldiers, placed there by the enemy for its defence. They first assaulted the gatehouse, but the Parliament soldiers defended it bravely, repulsed them, and killed five of their men.

But



The citizens of Chester were not for some months employed in any particular engagement, neither could they be supposed to be in a state of inactivity, when the enemy had possession of their outworks, and were quartered at their gates: but what a change to both parties! when they received intelligence of the King's departure from *Hereford*: and being upon the road with his forces to this city. The garrison now, in their turn, looked upon the enemy as already in their power.

Sept. 26. His Majesty arrived at *Ebirk* castle, and remained there with the forces during that night: and the next morning detached Sir *Marmaduke Langdale* with most of the horse, over *Holt* bridge, that they might be on the *Cheshire* side of the River *Dee*; intending that Sir *Marmaduke* should come upon them in the rear, and that all the forces



in the town should fall out, and so inclose them.

The King, with his guards, and Lord *Gerrard* with the remainder of the horse, marched this evening into the city, amidst the shouts and acclamations of the soldiers and citizens. His Majesty lodged at Sir Francis *Gammul's* in the Lower Bridge-street, opposite St. *Olave's* Church.

Thus the situation of the garrison at present wore a very promising appearance; and that evening, Sir *Marmaduke* having passed the River at *Holt*, drew up his forces upon *Rowton* heath, two miles east of this city. Major General *Poyntz*, who had marched a much shorter way, after he was informed of the King's taking this route (and was advanced as far as *Whitchurch*) sent a letter to the parliament commander, before this city; informing him, that he was come to their rescue,  
and



and desiring him to send some foot to assist him against the King's horse. This letter Sir *Marmaduke* intercepted, and prepared accordingly.

Sept. 27. Early this morning *Poyntz* advanced near this city, and was engaged by Sir *Marmaduke* with such resolution that he was forced to retire with loss: notwithstanding this, he drew up his men again, and kept at a distance, in expectation of the arrival of the forces from before the city, to whom he had dispatched a second courier. During this time the garrison of *Chester*, not considering, till it was too late, how Sir *Marmaduke* was situated, and there being no regular intelligence between him and Lord *Gerard*, sent him orders to retreat towards *Chester*, where some foot, drawn up under the command of Lord *Astley* and Sir *Thomas Glenham*, should be ready to support him. Sir *Marmaduke*



could not obey these orders : for if he had proceeded towards the city, *Poyntz* undoubtedly would have fallen on his rear. About noon colonel *Jones* and adjutant general *Louthian*, having drawn out 500 horse and 300 foot from before the city, began to march in haste : which caused those in the garrison to imagine that they were on their flight ; and presently most of the horse and foot had orders to pursue them. They sallied out through the *Northgate*, and so by *Floakersbrook*, (the direct way through the *Eastgate* being blocked up by the besiegers) but it afterwards appeared that their supposed flight was an eager haste to join colonel *Poyntz* : who now perceiving colonel *Jones's* men coming towards him, and having rallied his troops, immediately advanced upon Sir *Marmaduke* ; and then a most furious encounter took place. Now Sir *Marmaduke* having to engage *Poyntz* in the front,



front, and *Jones's* reinforcement having fallen upon his rear, after having fought bravely, was at length overpowered, routed, and forced to retire towards *Chester*. *Poyntz* pursues his victory, following most of the horse even to the walls of *Chester*, near which Lord *Gerard* and the Earl of *Lindsey* were drawn out with their troops, who charged and repulsed him; but those disorder'd horse which fled with Sir *Marmaduke*, had crowded up all the little passages and narrow lanes between *Hooie* heath and the city, a ground quite unfit for horse to fight upon; so that when a fresh body of the enemy's musqueteers charged resolutely upon them, they forced the King's horse to turn, and rout one another, and overbear their own officer who would have restrained them. The King's routed horse were scattered about the country, several made for *Holt* bridge, others ventured to cross the river at *Boughton* ford;



ford ; for *Poyntz*, being sufficiently satisfied with that day's success, pursued them no further.

During the time of this battle, his Majesty, attended by the Mayor, Sir Francis *Gamull*, and alderman *Cowper*, had the mortification of seeing his army routed, from the leads of the *Phœnix-tower*.

In this battle many gentlemen and officers of distinction lost their lives, or were taken prisoners. By computation not less than 600 men were killed on both sides.

His Majesty remained that night and the next morning in this city, and before his departure gave orders to Lord *Byron*, then governor, and to his commissioners, " If after  
" ten days they saw no prospect of future  
" relief, to treat for their own preservation."  
Though, at the same time he imagined the  
city



city must surrender, even before he could secure his own person.

Sept. 28. The King marched over Dee-bridge with 500 horse, and, not without some danger passed into *Wales*, and arrived that evening at *Denbigh* castle, attended by Sir Francis Gamull, capt. Thropp, and alderman Cowper.

They remained with the King two days, when these loyal citizens took a sad and final leave of their sovereign; and on their return to *Chester* found it, if possible, in a more distressed situation than when they left it: for on that morning, about four o'clock, the enemy had again forced the works at *Boughton*, (which at the last battle they were obliged to quit) and repossessed themselves of all that part of the town without the Eastgate. The citizens, tho' again confined within the narrow compass of their own walls, earnestly applied themselves in defence of the city. Sept.



Sept. 29, 1645. The besiegers made a breach in the walls near the *Newgate*, by the battery of 150 cannon shot, and at night made a brisk assault upon the breach in the wall, near the *Newgate*. They likewise attempted to mount the walls with scaling ladders: but some officers and soldiers were hauled over the walls, some of the ladders were dragged over, and many of the assailants thrown down and killed, and the rest forced to give over the attack.

Oct. 1, 1645. The enemy removed their battery, and planted thirteen pieces of cannon against the *Eastgate*, and played them furiously all that day, but with little or no damage to the city.

Early the next morning the citizens sallied out, dismounted more of their cannon, killed seven or eight men, and brought in a lieutenant and an engineer, prisoners.

Oct.



*Oct.* 4. The besiegers removed their great ordnance, and planted four large pieces against the walls between the *Northgate* and the *New-tower*, where the besieged had some cannon planted on *Morgan's* mount.

All Sunday the enemy played their artillery so violently, that they beat down some of the battlements, and forced the King's soldiers to retire from the walls : they likewise, by a shot, shattered the carriage of one of the largest cannon, which in the fall had two feet of the muzzle broke off. That night the besieged repaired the damages, and made entrenchments in the *Lady Barrow's Hey*,\* which they found to be very serviceable in the defence of that part of the city.

*Oct.* 6, 1645. The enemy removed their ordnance about six roods downwards, nearest

G

to

\* A field extending from the North side of the *Infirmary* to the *Rope-Walk*.



to the *New-tower*, without any great effect. The day following they raised a battery on the *Brewers-Hall Hill*, endeavouring with those cannon to clear the line within the city.

The enemy's horse in the evening drew up, and surrounded the town. About five o'clock a violent assault was made in several places: the battlements were resolutely attacked, and as resolutely defended. The battle was for a long time doubtful; great courage and perseverance appeared on both sides: at length the assailants having with great difficulty gained the top of the walls, were beat off, thrown down, and killed. The besieged dragged up several scaling ladders over the walls, and took a considerable number of arms, which the enemy had left in their flight.

The besiegers after this defeat gave up their intention of storming the city; and changed the siege into a close blockade: in order to  
subdue



subdue those by famine, who, to their honour, be it recorded, could not be overcome by force.

*Nov. 16.* *Beefton* Castle had likewise been besieged for eighteen weeks past, after the besieged had been long under the dreadful necessity of eating cats, &c.

The Governor (colonel *Ballard*) in compassion to his soldiers, consented to beat a parley; whereupon a treaty followed: and they obtained (even beyond expectation in such extremity) the following very honorable conditions.

To march out, the Governor and Officers with horses and arms, colours flying, drums beating, matches lighted,\* a proportion of powder and ball, and a convoy to guard them to *Flint* castle. This day being Sunday, the

G 2

castle

\* At that time used to fire off their pieces, instead of flints.



castle was surrendered, and the garrison, reduced to sixty men, marched out.

Many traces of ditches, trenches, and other military works, are still discernable in the grounds about the *Castle*.

The besieged in *Chester*, finding themselves much annoyed by a floating bridge over the river, near *Boughton*, had recourse to the following contrivance for the purpose of destroying it.

They provided two boats filled with combustible matters, and upon a day when there was a spring tide, turned them adrift up the river, to be carried by the tide to the enemy's bridge: where they arrived, and the trains took fire, but by the diligence of their guards, no great damage was done.

The garrison, disappointed at their scheme not taking effect, in the course of that day  
made



made a brisk sally out of the city, with 500 horse and 200 foot, to engage them: but being overpowered, it was thought adviseable to retire within the walls: and few were killed on either side.

*Nov. 27.* Sir William Brereton sent proposals to the besieged; but Lord Byron and the commissioners insisted upon such terms as Sir William would not by any means comply with.

*Dec. 10.* The parliament sent orders to colonel Booth (who had just reduced *Latham house*) to march with the *Lancashire* forces to *Chester*, to join Sir William Brereton.

Accordingly a few days after they arrived, to the great consternation of them within, and the joy of those without the walls: and immediately such dispositions were made, that the city was quite encompassed.

The



The enemy, now numerous, guarded with sufficient force every gate and avenue to the city; which soon occasioned a scarcity of provisions.

In the beginning of January, these brave citizens began to want the common necessities of life; which occasioned discontents and murmurings, almost to a mutiny: and the few disaffected that remained within the walls, insinuated to the people, that notwithstanding the misery they were in, the governor and commissioners themselves lived well.

To obviate this wicked aspersions, entirely void of foundation, Lord *Byron*, and some of the commissioners, took opportunity, severally, to invite the chiefs of the malcontents to dine with them, entertained them with boiled wheat, and gave them spring water to wash it down; solemnly assuring them, that such a repast as this had been their fare for some time past.

When



When the citizens were informed of this, they all seemed inspired with the same resolution, to support them with their lives, and to hold out to the last extremity.

*Jan. 10.* Sir William Brereton sent a threatening summons to the commanders; to which, in the course of five days, they sent no answer. Sir William then sent another summons to them, peremptorily requiring them to answer it that day.

The commanders then thought proper to send an answer, offering to come to a treaty, if the king did not relieve them in twelve days, desiring a pass to send him an express. But this was not complied with.

In respect to provision, the besieged were now in a far worse situation than ever, being obliged to keep themselves alive by feeding upon horses, dogs and cats; to such a dreadful necessity were they reduced. Yet by the  
judicious



judicious management of the governor, and the commissioners, both the town and garrison were contented, whilst there was the least probability of relief.

They refused nine several summonses; nor till they had received undoubted assurance that there were no hopes of any succour, did they answer the tenth: then, and not till then, they consented to a treaty, previous to which the following letters passed between the commanders:

“ My Lord,

“ I cannot send you such propositions as  
“ have formerly been rejected, every day pro-  
“ ducing loss of blood, and expence of trea-  
“ sure; neither will I trouble myself with  
“ answering the particulars of your unparal-  
“ leled demands; to which, if I should suit mine,  
“ I should require no less than yourself, and all  
“ the officers and commanders to be my pri-  
“ soners,



"soners, and the rest to submit to mercy.  
 "Yet to witness my desires for the preserva-  
 "tion of the city, I have, upon serious con-  
 "sideration and debate, thought fit to tender  
 "these inclosed conditions, conceived condu-  
 "cible to the welfare of the city and coun-  
 "tries adjacent ; for the perfecting whereof I  
 "am content commissioners meet, and have  
 "given commission to these gentlemen to  
 "receive your answer in writing to these pro-  
 "positions of mine herewith sent, touching  
 "which I shall not be so scrupulous as to de-  
 "mand their return, not valuing to what  
 "view they may be exposed ; therefore, they  
 "are left with you, if you please, and I re-  
 main

*Chester Suburbs,* "Your Servant,

*Jan. 26, 1646.*

"WM. BRERETON."

To this my Lord that day returned, that  
 he could not at present give a full answer, in

H

regard



regard that he must consult the gentlemen joined in the commission with him ; however, the next day he sent his answer, thus :

“ Sir,

“ Those demands of mine, which you term  
“ unparalleled, have been heretofore granted  
“ by far greater commanders than yourself, no  
“ disparagement to you, to places in a far  
“ worse condition than, God be thanked,  
“ this is. Yet witness the *Bosse*, *Breda*, and  
“ *Maastricht*, and as many other towns as  
“ have been beleagued either by the *Spaniards*  
“ or the *Hollanders* ; or, to come near *York*  
“ and *Carlisle*, and nearest of all, *Beefton-*  
“ *castle* ; and therefore you must excuse me,  
“ if, upon the authority of so many examples,  
“ I have not only propounded, but think fit  
“ to insist upon them, as the sense of all man-  
“ ner of people in the city. - As for your conceit  
“ in



“ in demanding of myself, and the rest of the  
 “ commanders and officers, to be your prison-  
 “ ers, I would have you know; that we  
 “ esteem our honour above our lives, that no  
 “ extremity whatsoever can put so mean  
 “ thoughts into the meanest of us all.—That  
 “ to submit to your mercy is by us reckoned  
 “ amongst those things, that we intend never  
 “ to make use of.—I am nevertheless still  
 “ content that the commissioners, whose names  
 “ I formerly tendered unto you, meet with  
 “ such as you shall appoint, in any indifferent  
 “ place, to treat upon honourable conditions;  
 “ and desire you to assure yourself, that no  
 “ other will be assented unto, by

*Chester-Castle,*

“ Your Servant,

*Jan. 27, 1646.*

“ JOHN BYRON.”

To which Sir William Brereton sent the  
 following reply:

H 2

“ My



“ My Lord,

“ I cannot believe that you conceive the  
“ war betwixt the *Hollanders* and *Spaniards*  
“ is to be made a precedent for us ; neither  
“ can I believe that such conditions as you  
“ demand were granted to the *Bosse*, *Breda*,  
“ or *Maeftricht*. Sure I am, none such were  
“ given to *York*, *Carlisle*, or *Beefton*, though  
“ some of them were maintained by as great  
“ commanders as yourself, and no disparage-  
“ ment to you. I shall therefore offer to your  
“ consideration the example of *Liverpool*,  
“ *Basing*, and *Latham*, who, by their refusal  
“ of honourable terms when they were pro-  
“ pounded, were not long after subjected to  
“ captivity and the sword. You may, there-  
“ fore, in pity to all those innocents under  
“ your command, tender their safety and pre-  
“ servation of the city ; for which end I have  
“ sent you fair and honourable conditions,  
“ such



“such as are the sense of all the officers and  
“soldiers with me; which being rejected,  
“you may expect worse from

*Chester Suburbs,* “Your Servant,

*Jan. 27, 1646.* “WM. BRERETON.”

It now being thought adviseable to come to a treaty, the Lord *Byron* fixed upon eighteen commissioners, and a greater number were appointed on behalf of the besiegers, which is taken notice of by Sir William *Brereton* in a letter to the parliament, wherein he says,  
“I was the more desirous to have a number  
“of commissioners, that the soldiers might  
“be better satisfied with that which was agreed  
“unto by their officers; and the officers  
“would be more careful to keep the soldiers  
“to an observance of those conditions, which  
“they themselves had signed and ratified.”

The



## The ARTICLES of Surrender.

ARTICLE I. " They, the Lord *Byron*,  
" and all noblemen, commanders, officers,  
" gentlemen, soldiers, and all other persons  
" whatever, now residing in the city of *Chester*,  
" and the *Castle* and fort thereof, shall have  
" liberty to march out of the said city, castle,  
" and fort, with all their apparel whatsoever,  
" and no other, or more goods, horses, or  
" arms, than are hereafter-mentioned, viz.  
" The Lord *Byron* with his horse and arms,  
" and ten men with their horses and arms, to  
" attend him ; also his lady and servants, two  
" coaches, and four horses in each of them,  
" for the accommodation of them and such  
" other ladies and gentlemen as the said lord  
" *Byron* shall think meet ; with eighty of the  
" said lord's books, and all his deeds and evi-  
" dences, manuscripts and writings in his pos-  
" session. And the said lord and lady, nor any  
" of



“ of his attendants, shall carry amongst them  
“ all above forty pounds in money, and twen-  
“ ty pounds in plate. The rest of the noble-  
“ men, with their ladies and servants, to  
“ march with their horses, each of the said  
“ lords attended with four men, their horses  
“ and arms; and every such nobleman carry-  
“ ing with him not above thirty pounds in  
“ money. Every knight and colonel to  
“ march with four men, their horses and  
“ arms; no such knight or colonel to carry  
“ with him above ten pounds in money.  
“ Every lieutenant colonel, major, and cap-  
“ tain of horse, with one man, their horses  
“ and arms; and such lieutenant colonel,  
“ major and captain, not to carry with  
“ him above five pounds in money. Every  
“ captain of foot, esquire, graduate, preaching  
“ minister, gentleman of quality, the advocate  
“ and secretary of the army, every of them  
with



“ with his own horse and sword, the ministers  
“ without swords; none of them carrying  
“ with him above fifty shillings; and the mi-  
“ nisters to have all their own manuscripts,  
“ notes and evidences. Lieutenants, cornets,  
“ ensigns, and other inferior officers in com-  
“ mission, on foot, with every man his own  
“ sword, and not above twenty shillings in  
“ money. All troopers, soldiers, gun-powder-  
“ makers, cannoniers, and all others not  
“ before-mentioned, to march without horse  
“ or arms; and that none of the said persons  
“ before-mentioned shall, in their march, after  
“ they are out of the city and liberties thereof,  
“ be plundered, searched, or molested.

“ II. That all women of what degree so-  
“ ever, that please to march out of the city,  
“ shall have all their apparel with them; and  
“ such officers wives whose husbands are pri-  
“ soners, or absent, may carry such sums of  
“ money



“ money with them as are allowed by these articles to commanders, officers, or gentlemen, of their husbands qualities, and no more.

“ III. That none of the commanders, or any other, at or before their marching out of the city, castle, or fort, injure or plunder the goods or arms of any person, nor carry any thing away out of the city, castle, or fort, but what is their own, and hereby allowed.

“ IV. That all citizens and others now residing within the city, shall be saved and secured in their persons, and their goods and estates within the city and liberties thereof, be preserved and kept from the plunder and violence of the soldiers; and have the like freedom of trade as other towns under the parliament protection have, and such immunities as they of right ought to have. And that every such merchant and trades-



“ man of *Chester*, as shall desire to go into  
“ *North-Wales* to look after his goods, shall  
“ have a pass to go thither and return back  
“ again, he first giving security, that during  
“ his absence he will do no act to the prejudice  
“ of the parliament; and that no such person  
“ shall at any time, without licence, carry  
“ more with him than sufficient to defray the  
“ charges of his journey. And that all citi-  
“ zens, and other inhabitants, (who shall  
“ now or hereafter desire to march out of the  
“ city of *Chester*, and not act any thing against  
“ the parliament) their wives and families  
“ shall have the benefits and privileges of  
“ inhabitants.

“ V. That such officers or soldiers as  
“ shall be left sick or wounded within the city  
“ of *Chester*, or the castle, or forts thereof,  
“ shall have liberty to stay till their recovery,  
“ and have passes or convoy to any of the  
“ king's



“ king’s garrisons not blocked up, in the mean  
“ time to be provided for.

“ VI. That the said Lord *Byron*, noble-  
“ men, commanders, gentlemen, officers,  
“ and soldiers, and all others that shall march  
“ out of the town, shall have liberty to march  
“ to *Conway*, and five days allowed them to  
“ march thither, with a convoy of two hun-  
“ dred horse; the *Welsh* officers and soldiers  
“ shall have liberty to go to their own homes,  
“ all of them to have free quarters on their  
“ march, and twelve carriages if they shall  
“ have occasion to use so many, which car-  
“ riages are to be returned on the sixth day,  
“ and that passes be given them for their safe  
“ return to *Chester*, and that they be secured  
“ until they return thither.

“ VII. That no soldier on his march shall  
“ be inveigled or enticed from his colours or



“ command, with any promise or inducement  
“ whatsoever.

“ VIII. That all such persons, citizens or  
“ or others, who have families in *Chester*, and  
“ are now in places remote, shall have the  
“ like benefit of these articles, as those who  
“ are now resident in the city.

“ IX. That the friends of the earls of  
“ *Derby* and *Lichfield*, or any of those whose  
“ dead bodies are not yet interred in *Chester*,  
“ shall have two months time to fetch them  
“ thence whither they please, provided that  
“ none of them come attended with above  
“ twenty horses.

“ X. That no church within the city, or  
“ evidence, or writings belonging to the same,  
“ shall be defaced.

“ XI. That such Irish as were born of  
“ Irish parents, and have taken part with the  
“ rebels



“ rebels in Ireland, now in the city, shall be  
“ prisoners.

“ XII. That all those horses and arms be-  
“ longing to those that march out, and not by  
“ these articles allowed to be taken and carried  
“ out of the city, except such horses as are  
“ the proper goods of the citizens and inha-  
“ bitants that shall remain in the city before  
“ the delivery of the same, be brought, the  
“ horses into the *Castle-court*, and the arms  
“ into the *Shire-hall*, where officers shall be  
“ appointed to receive them.

“ XIII. That in consideration of this,  
“ the said city and castle without any slighting  
“ or defacing thereof, with all the ordnance,  
“ arms, amunition, and all other furniture and  
“ provision of war therein whatsoever, except  
“ what is allowed to be carried away, and all  
“ the records in the castle without diminution,  
“ embezzling or defacing, be delivered to the  
said



“ said Sir *William Brereton*, or such as he  
“ shall appoint, for the use of the king and  
“ parliament, upon Tuesday next, being the  
“ third of this instant February, 1646, by ten  
“ o’clock in the forenoon.

“ XIV. That the fort, with all ordnance,  
“ arms, ammunition, and provisions therein, of  
“ what sort whatsoever, not firmly granted or  
“ allowed upon the signing these articles, be  
“ delivered to Sir *William Brereton*, or such  
“ as he shall appoint.

“ XV. That upon signing these articles,  
“ all prisoners in the city, castle, or fort, that  
“ have been in arms for the parliament, or  
“ imprisoned for adhering thereunto, shall im-  
“ mediately be at liberty.

“ XVI. That the convoys shall not receive  
“ any injury on their journey, going or com-  
“ ing back, and shall have three days allowed  
“ for their return.

“ XVII.



• XVII. That if any persons concerned  
 “ in any of these articles, shall violate any  
 “ part of them, such persons shall lose the be-  
 “ nefit of the said articles.

“ XVIII. That upon signing of the arti-  
 “ cles, sufficient hostages (such as shall be ap-  
 “ proved of) be given for the performance of  
 “ the said articles. Signed by us the commis-  
 “ sioners appointed on the behalf of the right  
 “ honourable lord *Byron*.

“ *Edmund Verney, John Robinson, Thomas*  
 “ *Cholmondeley, Peter Griffith, Henry Leigh,*  
 “ *Thomas Thropp, Christopher Bleafe, Wil-*  
 “ *liam Ince, John Werden, John Johnson,*  
 “ *Edmund Moreton, Thomas Bridge.*

“ What is done by the commissioners is  
 “ confirmed by J. BYRON.”

Pursuant to this, the brave and loyal city  
 of *Chester*, which had held out twenty weeks  
 beyond expectation, being now subdued by  
 famine



famine only, was upon the third day of February, 1645, surrendered up to the parliament forces ; who immediately took possession of it : and soon after two thousand arms, and five hundred and twenty head pieces were brought into the castle, agreeably to the 14th article of the treaty.

February 6th, 1645-6. Three days afterwards, orders came down from the parliament to regulate the garrison, and to appoint alderman *William Edwards* to be colonel of the regiment, and mayor of the city of *Chester*, until the time of electing a new mayor, which should not be until the year 1647.

At the same time the sword and mace were restored to the city, the high-cross pulled down, and the fonts taken away out of the parish churches in *Chester*.

October 1st, 1646. The parliament displaced the persons hereafter named from being  
justices



justices of the peace, aldermen, sheriffs-peers, and common-council-men, by a public ordinance, which recited, that these delinquents had been in arms, or had otherwise been violent fomenters of these unnatural wars against the parliament, viz.

*Charles Walley*, mayor, *Nicholas Ince*, *Randle Holme*, *Francis Gamull*, *Sir Robert Brerewood*, *Thomas Smith*, *Richard Dutton*, *Robert Sproston*, aldermen and justices of the peace.

*James Earl of Derby*, *John Earl Rivers*, *Richard Broster*, *Thomas Savage*, aldermen.

*Humphrey Phillips*, *Edward Hulton*, *Thomas Weston*, *Richard Wright*, *Humphrey Lloyd*, *Richard Taylor*, and *Arthur Walley*, sheriffs-peers and common-council-men.

The city suffered much during this siege; the lands were all mortgaged, the funds quite exhausted, and the churches (particularly St.



*John's*, being so long in the possession of the enemy) were much damaged.

The following buildings were most of them destroyed, by the garrison, to prevent them being a shelter to the enemy:—The chapel in *Spital-Boughton*, and all the houses and out-houses thereabout, all the mansion-houses and other edifices near the *Bars*, many dwelling-houses in the *Foregate-street*, *Cow-lane*, and about *St. John's* church, and the lanes adjacent. The *Further Northgate-street*, with all its lanes, and the chapel of *St. John*, were burnt down to the ground; from *Dee-bridge*, all the suburbs of *Handbridge*, with the lanes, barns, and buildings thereunto adjoining, were all pulled down. The *Wet-glovers* work-houses, under the *Walls*, near the *Bridge*, were all demolished; as were likewise the following halls, and mansion-houses, in and near the city:—*Brewers-hall*, over the water, facing



cing the *Watergate*; *Bach-hall*, belonging to Mr. *Whitby*; *Blacon-hall*, with the dairy-house, Sir *Randle Crewe's*; *Overleigh-hall*, near *Handbridge*, belonging to Mr. *Ellis*; *Nuns'-hall*, Sir *William Brereton's*; *Dutton-hall*, *Northgate-street*, Mr. *Jolly's*; *Flookersbrook-hall*, Mr. *Thomas Smith's*; *Hoole-hall*, belonging to Mr. *Bunbury*; *Bretton-hall*, Mr. *Ravenscroft's*; the hall in St. *John's* churchyard, Lord *Cholmondeley's*; Mr. *William Gamull's* house; and Mr. *John Werden's*, near the *Newgate*.



ABOUT *Midsummer*, 1648, the plague raged so violently in *Chester*, that more than two thousand of those unfortunate citizens died of this dreadful disease. The city, in the course of a short time, became so deserted that grass grew in the principal streets.



The parliament, being apprized of the miserable situation of the inhabitants, made the following order :—

“ Whereas *Chester* is grievously visited with  
“ the pestilence, very few families being clear,  
“ by reason whereof almost all persons of  
“ ability have left the said city, there remain-  
“ ing, for the most part, only the poor, who  
“ are altogether deprived of trading, and if  
“ not presently relieved, are like to perish for  
“ want, and endanger the infecting of the ad-  
“ jacent counties : And whereas the county  
“ of *Chester* is exceedingly impoverished by  
“ the late war ; 'tis ordered, That the mi-  
“ nisters of *London* and *Westminster*, those in  
“ the counties of *Chester*, *Kent*, *Suffex*, *Surry*,  
“ *Southampton*, *Middlesex*, *Essex*, *Hereford*,  
“ *Cambridge*, *Suffolk*, and *Norfolk*, do, next  
“ Lord's day, after the receipt of this ordi-  
“ nance, earnestly move their people to con-  
“ tribute



“tribute for the relief of the said distressed  
“inhabitants.”

In *August*, 1648, Captain *Oldham* and Lieutenant *Ashton* were seized, upon a strong suspicion of having a design of seizing the garrison for the use of the King; in a short time after, they were tried, and condemned to be shot in the *Corn-market*.

At the place of execution *Oldham* confessed that a disappointment of some military preferment was the cause of his revolting; and, at the same time, declared, that the principal citizens, who had been suspected, were no ways concerned in the affair.

The others contrivers of this business, being prisoners of war, were referred to the General.

Sir *George Booth*, a person of one of the best fortunes in *Cheshire*, in 1659, undertook to possess himself of the city and castle of *Chester*, for the use of the King.

Also



Also Sir *Thomas Middleton* (who, as well as Sir *George Booth*, had been in the service of the parliament) being a man possessed of as much interest in *North Wales* as Sir *George* in *Chefbire*, was ready to join with him; and both of them to unite, entirely with the King's party, in these counties.

Accordingly, the time being fixed, about the middle of *July*, Sir *George* advanced towards *Chester*, and arrived, at the rendezvous, within four or five miles of the city, the night before.

This night there fell excessive rain with a cold high wind, that it was universally allowed that so great storm was seldom known in Winter, which was very extraordinary at this season of the year, and which caused to the troops much distress and confusion.

Sir *George Booth* came there in person, with a good troop of horse, which he brought with him,



him, and found many more, though (owing to the tempestuousness of the night) not so many as he expected.

In the course of the night Sir *Thomas Middleton* joined Sir *George* with his forces, and, early in the morning, they marched into *Chester*, with a sufficient force to suppress all those who had any inclination to oppose them.

They then published their declaration rather against those who called themselves the Parliament, and usurped the government by the power of the army, than owning directly the King's interest.

They said, " That since God had suffered  
" the spirit of division to continue in this na-  
" tion, which was left without any settled  
" foundation of religion, liberty, and property;  
" the legislative power usurped at pleasure;  
" the army, raised for its defence, misled by  
" their superior officers; and no face of go-  
vernment



“ vernment remaining that was lawfully con-  
“ stituted ; therefore they, being sensible of  
“ their duty and utter ruin, if these distrac-  
“ tions should continue, had taken up arms  
“ in vindication of the freedom of parliaments,  
“ of the known laws, liberty, and property,  
“ and of the good people of this nation, groan-  
“ ing under insupportable taxes ; that they can-  
“ not despair of the blessing of God, nor of  
“ the chearful concurrence of all good people,  
“ and of the undeceived part of the army,  
“ whose arrears and future advancement they  
“ would procure, suffering no imposition or  
“ force on any man’s conscience.”

But though they mentioned nothing of his Majesty, in express terms, they gave all countenance, and reception, and all imaginable assurance, to the King’s party, who had directions from the King to concur, and to unite themselves to them.

The



The parliament immediately sent an army, under the command of Colonel *Lambert*, who made such incredible haste, in coming down, that Sir *George Booth* found that he was not within less than a day's march before, he thought, he could have been half the way.

Sir *George* himself had not been acquainted with war, and the officers, who were with him, were not of one mind or humour, yet all were desirous to fight (the natural infirmity of the nation, which could never endure the view of an enemy without engaging in a battle) and, instead of retiring into the town, which they might have defended against a much greater army than *Lambert* had with him, longer than he could stay before it, they marched to meet him, and were, after a short encounter, routed by him, and totally broken; so that, the next day, the gates of *Chester*

L

were



were opened to *Lambert*. Sir *George Booth* himself made his flight in a disguise, but he was taken, upon the way, and sent prisoner to the Tower.



F I N I S.